

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 17 February 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 28 January 1954, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne in Rathenow was occupied to capacity by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and motor transport insignia. ¹ On 22 January 8 x 76.2-mm field guns in a shed. On 27 January, 18 x 76.2-mm field guns, including the abovementioned 8 guns, were shuttled to the railroad station by 3 three-axle trucks. Trucks and guns appeared to be factory-new. The guns were entrained and shipped to the Arado installation via Staedtebahnhof and a special spur track. The trucks returned to the Kraftfahrer Kaserne.

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2. On 28 January, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied to capacity as previously by about 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and motor transport insignia. Nineteen 122-mm field howitzers and 10 x 152-mm field howitzers were seen in the open gun sheds as previously.
3. On 28 January, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied to capacity as previously by about 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and motor transport insignia.

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4. the Arado installation was occupied by 200 to 250 troops, on 28 January. The area around the installation was patrolled by sentries and was being surrounded by a high board fence, with 4 watch towers at the corners and electric lamps every 20 meters. some of the sheds were occupied by guns and machine guns. Noise of hammers and drills were heard and glaring bluish light, possibly of welding, was seen through the windows of the shed. German workers had to leave their briefcases, cigarettes and matches with the guards, and were not permitted to smoke during work. ²

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5. On 18, 23 and 25 January, a total of 5 tank cars arrived at the Rathenow Nordbahnhof; the fuel was hauled to the Kraftfahrer Kaserne and the Pionier Kaserne by 3 to 4 tank trucks

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6. About 120 troops engaged in the construction of a firing range, about 700 to 800 meters long, beside the previous firing range, which was about 150 meters long.

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7. On 21 January, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 1,200 troops. Sentries seen wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. At about 9 a.m. about 25 troops carrying boxes and cable reels were seen leaving the installation toward Semlin. Three rocket launchers and about 40 troops were seen near the gun sheds in the northern portion of the installation.

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8. On 27 January, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and motor transport insignia. Between 9 a.m. and noon, reports of carbines and machine guns were heard from the firing range east of the installation.

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9. On 27 January, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. About 40 troops were lined up in the barracks yard and, at about 11 a.m., about 40 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and motor transport insignia entered the installation.

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10. On 27 January, the Ziethen Kaserne was occupied. Sentries seen wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. At about 1 p.m., about 35 troops with 15 measuring sticks, about 2 meters long, entered the barracks installation from the direction of the riding course.

1. Comment. The information does not indicate any change in the distribution of units of the IV Arty Corps in Rathenow.

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2. Comment. Recently, a rather large number of 76.2-mm guns had repeatedly been reported from Rathenow. The shipment of the guns to the ordnance and equipment depot of the IV Arty Corps in the former Arado installation tends to indicate that the 76.2-mm guns of the corps were turned in, in connection with the re-equipment with 85-mm AT guns. The guns may have been assembled in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne (5443).

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